

RemarksStatus of the Claims

Claims 1-15, 20-29, 31-47, and 49-60 are pending in the application. All claims stand rejected. By this paper, claims 1, 20, 29, 41, 59, and 60 have been amended. New claim 61 has been added. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that each of the pending claims, as amended, is patentably distinct from the cited prior art and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of all pending claims herein is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-7, 10-14, 55, and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over August et al. ("August") in view of Rosecrans et al. ("Rosecrans"). Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over August in view of Rosecrans in further view of Doganata et al. ("Doganata"). Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over August in view of Rosecrans in further view of Katzur. Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over August in view of Rosecrans in further view of Maes et al. ("Maes"). Claims 20-28, 39-40, 57, and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over August in view of Candelore et al. ("Candelore"). Claims 32, 33, 50, and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over August. Claims 34 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over August in view of Maes. Claims 36 and 45 stand

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over August in view of Doganata. Claim 37 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over August in view of Fernandez et al. ("Fernandez"). Claim 46 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over August in view of Katzur. Claims 29, 31, 35, 38, 41-44, 47, 49, 53-54, 56, and 60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by August.

Claims 1, 29, 41, and 60

As amended, claim 1 recites "a single button to selectively add a new contact from a displayed list to the contact list without requiring the user to manually enter information about the new contact." Similar amendments have been made to claims 29, 41, and 60. Support for these amendments may be found at page 18 of the specification.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action, the Examiner notes that:

Applicant argues that August does not teach the scenario of entering a contact into a contact list by the steps taught in Applicant's specification because August does not teach an "Add" button. These limitations are not recited in the claims and therefore these arguments are moot

Office Action at page 2.

Applicant has amended claim 1 make it clear that the claimed invention allows a user to select a contact from a displayed list of potential contacts, such as a directory or the like, by means of a single button. This allows the user to add a new contact without having to "manually enter information about the new contact."

By contrast, August teaches that "[t]he key pad 360 is used to enter telephone number digits during dialing and programming of a repertory dialer memory, for example." Column 7, lines 63-65. Thus, August teaches programming a dialer memory by entering the digits manually into the phone.

It is clear that the simplified step of selecting a contact from a directory to add the contact to a stored contact list is not the same as manually entering a contact's information, i.e. name and telephone number, character by character into a contact list. Likewise, August's discussion of a "directory of stored numbers" is limited to a few lines of the reference; there is no suggestion of inputting contacts into a contact list in any manner other than manually.

Because neither August nor any of the other references teach or suggest "a single button for selectively adding a new contact from a displayed list to the contact list without requiring the user to manually enter information about the new contact," Applicant respectfully submits that a prima facie case of obviousness cannot be established for claims 1, 29, 41, and 60 based on the cited references.

Claims 20 and 59

As amended, claim 20 recites:

an output device for generating television audio output, wherein the remote control comprises an input device for capturing a first audio signal including both a user's voice and the television audio output, and wherein the set top box comprises a noise cancellation component to substantially cancel the television audio output from the captured first audio signal and pass the user's voice by obtaining a television audio output signal directly from the set top box before being reproduced by the output device and removing the television audio output signal from the captured first audio signal.

Support for these limitations may be found in Figure 9 and pages 36 and 37 of the present application.

As illustrated in Figure 9, a signal containing TV audio output (906) is provided to both the TV (104) and directly to a noise cancellation module (908). The TV (104) generates audible sounds which are picked up along with the user's voice as audio input (904) by the microphone (204). The noise cancellation module (908) substantially removes the TV audio output (906) from the audio input (904) to produce filtered audio input (910), i.e., an audio signal in which the TV audio output (906) is no longer audible.

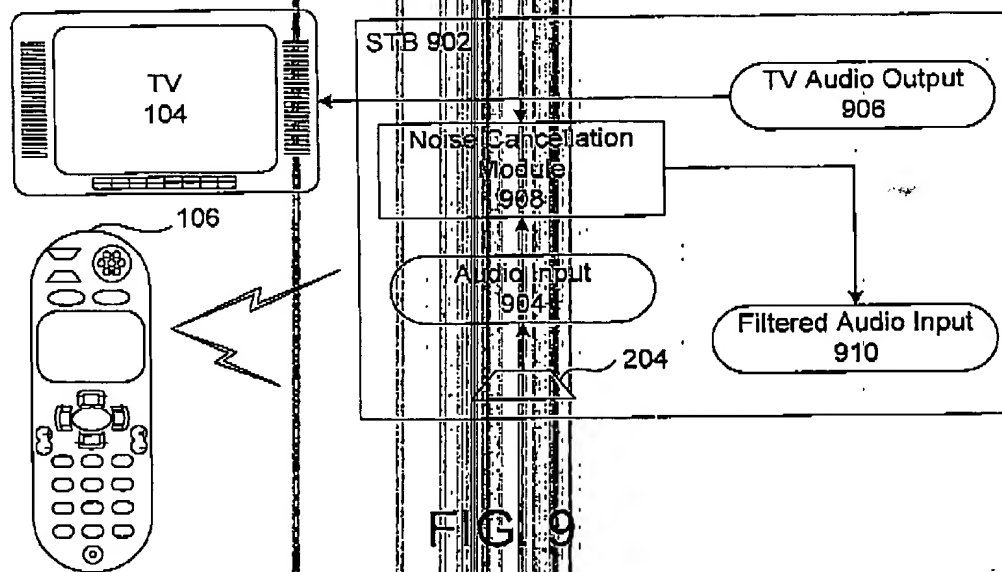


FIG. 9

While it is true that Candefore mentions noise/echo cancellation, it is accomplished in a completely different way than the claimed invention. The Examiner refers to paragraphs 0110, 0112, 0140, 0141, 0259, and 0266. These paragraphs are reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

[0110] The invention may include a remote control unit 1000 fitted with a microphone. Remote control unit 1000 may be fitted with such features as a **special noise canceling microphone** and/or a push-to-talk button.

[0112] The invention may also include an **array of microphones** that are operated in conjunction with a remote control 1000 that is coupled to the set top box 1100. The **microphone array may further provide an echo-canceling capability** in receiving voice signals within the area of usage.

[0140] In the subscriber's premises, a speech-enabled remote control may be employed, e.g. containing a microphone, as well as traditional universal remote control functionality. The remote control may further contain a Push-To-Talk (PTT) button. Conventional remote control functions are transmitted via infra-red (IR). The speech output may be wirelessly transmitted to a set top box, module, or appliance located at the set-top box. The wireless transmission from the remote control may employ an electromagnetic physical transport layer or ultrasonic physical transport layer. The electromagnetic physical transport layer may use a radio frequency carrier or an infra-red carrier.

[0141] When the PTT button is pushed by the user, the remote control sends a PTT active command to the set top appliance. The appliance may then inform the set-top box to place an icon on the screen, or otherwise indicate to the user that the system is listening to them. Next, as the user speaks into the microphone, the speech is digitized, compressed, and transmitted to the set top appliance.

[0259] FIG. 19A depicts a simplified block diagram of a hand held remote 1000, containing microphone 1060 and keypad 1020 supporting user input organized and processed by embedded controller 1050 for communication by wireless interface 1040 coupled 1002 to set-top apparatus 1100, as shown in FIG. 3.

[0266] The invention supports bi-directional communication via coupling 1002. Note that noise-canceling microphones 1060 may use bidirectional communication on coupling 1002. Noise cancellation may be performed within set-top apparatus 1100, by at least one of the set-top box 1110 and set-top appliance 1120.

As is clear from paragraphs 0110 and 0112, noise/echo cancellation is accomplished by providing a special noise-cancelling microphone (or a microphone array), that picks up ambient sound and cancels that sound from a captured input

signal including both the ambient sound and the user's voice. Paragraph 0266 merely states that noise cancellation may be performed within the set top box. However, Candelore does not disclose any other approach than using a special noise-cancelling microphone (or microphone array) to pick up the ambient sound.

The claimed invention does not require a special noise-cancelling microphone or microphone array to cancel sound coming from the television. Instead, the set top box uses the television audio output signal already within STB (since the STB is generating that signal), which is provided directly to the noise cancellation module "before being reproduced by the output device [television]." There is no teaching or suggestion in Candelore of this type of noise cancellation.

Candelore actually teaches away from the claimed invention by stating that his microphones could be used for echo cancellation. In order to provide echo cancellation, separate microphones are required, since echoes are a function of the acoustic properties of the room. By contrast, the claimed invention operates in any room, since the television audio output signal, before it is reproduced by the output device, is always the same from room to room.

Thus, Candelore could not be more different from the claimed invention. None of the other references teach or suggest noise cancellation "by obtaining a television audio output signal directly from the set top box before being reproduced by the output device and removing the television audio output signal from the captured first audio signal," as claimed. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness cannot be established using the prior art of record.

New Claim 61

New claim 61 recites that "pressing the single button initiates a contact selection mode for displaying the list of contacts that can be selectively added to the contact list and allowing the user to navigate the list to make a selection." Support for this new claim may be found at page 18 of the specification. Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest a single button for making selections from a directory or other list, let alone a single button that initiates a contact selection mode for displaying and navigating the directory.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, the cited prior art references, whether considered individually or in combination, fail to disclose each of the limitations in any of the pending independent claims. For at least the same reasons, all of the dependent claims are also patentably distinct from the cited prior art. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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